

8. *Effect of Acids on the Blood.*—Dr. HERTWIG has found by repeated experiments with sulphuric, nitric, muriatic, carbonic, acetic, and tartaric acids, performed on domestic animals and birds at the Royal Veterinary School, that all these acids, with the exception of the nitric, produce a dark colour of the blood, both in the arteries and veins. The carbonic acid, and also the vegetable acids, produced a greater effect than the mineral ones. When the acids were introduced into the blood immediately, by injection, the whole mass of blood became darker in a few seconds; even in cases where death did not follow.

Prussic acid, in moderate doses, had no effect on the blood; but when given to an extent which produced difficulty of breathing and dizziness, the blood became at once black, and sometimes even of a tarry appearance. The instant that this acid began to act, the mucous membrane of the nose, tongue, gums, and lips, assumed a dark red colour.—*Lond. Med. Gaz. Oct. 1832, from Medicinische Zeitung, No. I. Sept. 1832.*

9. *Ossification of certain Muscles.*—Dr. HASSE gives a curious account in the second number of the *Medizinische Zeitung*, of ossifications, occurring in the substance of the pectoralis major, and tendon of the deltoid muscle of the left side, in the Prussian infantry recruits, amongst whom it is very common, and generally goes by the name of the “Exercise Bone.” Of 600 recruits, one-half of whom had been one year, and the other half six months in the service, Hasse found 18 with the disease, more or less developed. He does not find the weak and cachectic more disposed to it than those of opposite conditions.

A few days after the commencement of the system of exercise, those predisposed to this disease, perceive a small red painful swelling on the part of the left shoulder, against which the musket leans. If this is neglected, a number of hard, moveable, gland-like tumours are formed in the muscle; these soon change into large masses of a solid cartilaginous consistence; and, lastly, in a period of from four to seven weeks, after the first feeling of uneasiness, the whole tumour is changed into a solid mass of bone, which, according to its extent, impedes more or less the motion of the arm, and often renders the excision of the bony tumour absolutely necessary.

The pieces of bone extracted have been from three to five inches long, and from one to two broad, weighing from 5*liiss.* to 3*i.* Their surface is irregular, presenting small processes of bony matter. Occasionally the process was not finished; and the various changes of the red muscular fibre, in one part, into a tendinous shining mass, and in others, into cartilage, which presented points or masses of bone of a regular cellular structure in different parts of its substance, could be observed.—*Ibid.*

#### MATERIA MEDICA.

10. *Properties of the Cainca Root.*—The favourable account given of this substance as a diuretic by François, (*Journal General de Med. May, 1830,*) induced Dr. ALBERS to try it in a great number of dropsical patients in the Charité at Berlin. The rad. caincæ, called by the Brazilians “black root,” (*raiz preta,*) is, according to Martius, the product not only of the *Chiococca racemosa*, but also of the *Ch. anguifuga* and *densifolia*. Its taste is bitter and sharp; its smell nauseous. Administered internally, it produces nausea, and even vomiting, purging, and an increased secretion of the urine and menses. François asserts that it diminishes the frequency and violence of the heart’s action, in hypertrophy of that organ. Spitta, on the contrary, found that it raised the pulse, and caused congestions. Langendorf and Martius speak principally of its purgative and emetic qualities. François, Kapeler, Bally, &c. though they admit these qualities, lay the greatest stress on its diuretic powers, and maintain, that if it act on the bowels, it is always

mildly, and without griping. The doses are  $\frac{3}{ij}$ . to the 6 or 8 ounces of infusion or decoction; from 4 to 20 grains of the extract;  $\frac{3}{j}$ . to  $\frac{3}{ij}$ . of the tincture; and 20 to 60 grains of the powdered bark.

Of 19 cases of dropsy treated by this root, 5 only had increased secretion of urine, followed in 4 cases by complete cure; but in these the collection of water was confined to the abdomen and legs: there was no organic disease or symptomatic fever. In the other cases, the medicine had no effect on the kidneys or on the dropsy; but, in 12 instances, produced such a diarrhoea as forbade its further employment. Most patients complained of nausea, and a few of vomiting and griping. It was also given in considerable doses to a patient labouring under disease of the heart; but, as it rather increased than allayed the palpitation, its use was given up, after 260 grains had been taken. It was also given to two healthy men, in very large doses, when it caused two or three stools daily, but produced no change in the quantity of urine. From these experiments, Albers joins his countrymen, Langendorf and Martius, in denying its diuretic powers, and placing it amongst the drastic purges, by the side of the *Helleborus niger*.—*Med. Gaz. from Medicinische Zeitung*, No. IV. Sept. 1832.

11. *Liniment for Chilblains*.—The following liniment rubbed upon the inflamed part before a brisk fire, is said to cure the worst chilblains, if they have not ulcerated. Take purified chicken fat or lard, oil of sweet almonds, of each, 12 oz.; yellow wax, 4 oz.; melt together by a gentle heat, pour into a heated mortar, and when nearly cold, take of oil of lavender, 3 oz.; aq. ammoniæ, 1 oz.; camphor, 1 oz.; tincture of black mustard seed, 2 oz. The volatile oil is to be mixed with the ammonia, and the camphor dissolved in the tincture of mustard seed, they are then to be poured on the fatty mass in the mortar, and well triturated.—*Journal de Chimie Medicale*.

#### PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

12. *Use of Liquid Styrax in the Treatment of Blennorrhœa and Leucorrhœa*.—M. LHERITIER recommends the liquid styrax for the cure of gonorrhœa and leucorrhœa. He states that it possesses all the useful properties of copaiba, and is not disagreeable to the stomach. The form which he prefers is in pills:—R. Styrax liquid purif.  $\frac{3}{j}$ . pulv. glycirrh. q. s.; make into pills of six or eight grains each, of which three are to be taken morning and evening. It may also be given in the form of syrup, made according to the following recipe:—R. Styrax,  $\frac{3}{ij}$ . Aq. puræ,  $\frac{1}{ij}$ . Saccharum,  $\frac{1}{iv}$ . This preparation is particularly useful in leucorrhœa, which soon yields to its use.—*Gaz. Med. October 2d, 1832.*

13. *Diabetes cured by Tannin*.—Dr. GJANOW RELATES in the *Annali Universali di Medicina* two cases of diabetes cured by tannin. He gave the remedy in combination with opium, as follows:—R. Tannin,  $\frac{3}{ij}$ . Pulv. opii, gr.  $\frac{1}{2}$ . M. Div. into three powders, one morning, noon and night. The quantity of tannin was gradually increased to four scruples daily. The first patient was cured in ten, and the second in twelve days.—*Gaz. Med. Sept. 15, 1832.*

14. *Hæmostatic*.—Dr. ARENTZ, of Norway, recommends nitric acid as a most powerful remedy for the stoppage of hæmorrhage. In bleeding from a vessel too deeply-seated to be easily accessible, or in false aneurism, he pours eight or ten drops of the nitric acid into the wound.—*Ibid.*, and *Casper Critisches Repertor*, l. xxx. c. 1.

15. *On the External Use of the Cod-Liver Oil, in the Impetigo Seabida, &c.*—Dr. MARSHALL HALL, in a note in the *London Medical Gazette*, for September